

Remarks/Arguments:

Claim 18 has been amended. No new matter is introduced herein. Claims 1-19 are pending.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. In particular, it is asserted that the "specification fails to define a tangible computer readable medium," as recited in claim 18. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion on p. 2 of the Office action, claim 18 has been amended to recite a "computer readable storage medium." Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-19 have been rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Handsaker *et al.* (US 7,251,776). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 includes features neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

...designating identification of users with respective sections of the data structure...

...enabling each of the users access to the storage areas in the respective sections... designated by each users' respective identification, said access permitted to each of the users responsive to the designating identification of the users with the respective sections of the data structures...

...preventing any of said users from having access to any of said sections which have not been designated with identification of said any of said users. (Emphasis added)

Claim 18 includes a similar recitation.

Handsaker *et al.* teach that spreadsheet-based data processing systems perform large business and financial computations based on a network of inter-related spreadsheets, where each user manages their own spreadsheet to model respective classes of problems (e.g., sales commission plans). (Col. 6, line 40-Col. 7, line 19). Handsaker *et al.* disclose, in Fig. 1, parameterized workbook 105 which includes parameter module 110 (for input parameters) and results module 120 (for results such as value(s) from workbook cell(s), a chart or an HTML rendering of a region of a spreadsheet) that are associated with a particular workbook 115.

(Col. 8, lines 40-67). Parameterized workbook 105 is used to manage dependencies between multiple interdependent spreadsheets. (Col. 7, lines 3-33). Parameterized workbook 105 allows computations to be performed by each user without having to change an underlying spreadsheet 115 and also allow calculations in the parameterized workbook 105 which depends on one or more calculations from subsidiary parameterized workbooks 105 (Col. 12, lines 28-67).

A user associates type information with parameter 110 and result 120. The type information "constrains the set of legal data values the system can use" for parameter 110 and for result 120. (Col. 9, lines 14-19 and Col. 10, lines 7-22). The type information associated with parameters 110 and results 120 "can represent objects with data fields, methods, inheritance and information hiding capabilities." A parameter can also be a "person type parameter" with attributes such as personal information. (Col. 9, lines 25-46). The parameter type information is used to avoid a common source of user errors when creating, modifying or accessing computations. (Col. 10, lines 23-34).

A type system of parameterized workbook 105 can capture data source mapping information about how objects and record types relate to data sources. The type system can also "combine the data source mapping information with the object or record type information to express arbitrary filters or restrictions on the set of object or record types," and can express data dependent constraints on parameters 110 and results 120. (Col. 9, lines 47-65).

However, Handsaker *et al.* do not disclose or suggest: 1) designating identification of users with respective sections of the data structure, 2) enabling each of the users access to the storage areas in the respective sections designated by each users' respective identification where the access permitted to each of the users is responsive to the designating identification and 3) preventing any of the users from having access to any of the sections which have not been designated with identification of the respective users, as required by claims 1 and 18 (emphasis added). Handsaker *et al.* only teach formation of a parameterized workbook where: a) an input parameter may include personal information, b) a set of values may be used to constrain the input parameters and results and c) that arbitrary filters or restrictions can be expressed regarding a set of object or record types. Handsaker *et al.* are silent on designating user identification with respective sections of a data structure so that a user is enabled to access storage areas contained in a section of the data structure based on the inclusion of the user identification and also prevents the users from accessing storage areas in a section not

associated with the user. Thus, Handsaker *et al.* do not include all of the features of claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1 and 18 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3 and 5-11 include all of the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Accordingly, these claims are also patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 12 include features neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

...receiving authorization, by a user, to access at least a portion of a plurality of sections included in the data structure, the authorization being provided by designating an identification of the user with the portion of the sections in the data structure...

...enabling the user to access the portion of the sections of the data structure based on the received authorization...

...preventing users other than the user from having access to any of said sections which have not been designated with identification of said any of said users. (Emphasis Added)

Handsaker *et al.* are described above and teach generation of a parameterized workbook 105 to manage dependencies between multiple interdependent spreadsheets. Handsaker *et al.* do not disclose or suggest that 1) authorization is provided by designating an identification of the user with at least a portion of sections in a data structure, 2) enabling the user to access the portion of the sections based on the received authorization and 3) preventing users other than the user from having access to any of the sections which have not been designated with the respective identification, as required by claim 12. Handsaker *et al.* are silent regarding providing authorization to a user by designating user identification with portions of the sections in the data structure so that a user is enabled to access a portion of a section of the data structure based on the inclusion of the user identification and also prevents the users from accessing a section not associated with the user. Thus, Handsaker *et al.* do not include all of the features of claim 12. Accordingly, allowance of claim 12 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-17 include all of the features of claim 12 from which they depend. Accordingly, these claims are also patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as claim 12.

Claim 19 includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

...enabling a first user to view data contained in only the first section of the data structure by entering a first identification associated with the first user in the first cell...

...enabling a second user to view data contained in only the second section of the data structure by entering a second identification associated with the second user in the second cell...

...preventing the first user from accessing data in the second section...

...preventing the second user from accessing data in the first section. (Emphasis added)

Handsaker *et al.* are described above and teach generation of a parameterized workbook 105 to manage dependencies between multiple interdependent spreadsheet. However, Handsaker *et al.* do not disclose or suggest 1) enabling first and second users to view data contained in only the respective first and second sections of the data structure by entering respective first and second identification associated with the respective cells, 2) preventing the first user from accessing data in the second section and 3) preventing the second user from accessing data in the first section, as required by claim 19. Handsaker *et al.* are silent regarding these features. Handsaker *et al.* do not teach that users are enabled to view data contained in respective sections of the data structure based on the inclusion of the corresponding user identification and that also prevents the users from accessing data in a section not associated with the user. Thus, Handsaker *et al.* do not include all of the features of claim 19. Accordingly, allowance of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Handsaker *et al.* in view of Austin-Lane *et al.* (US 7,363,345). However, claims 4 and 13 include all of the features of respective claims 1 and 12 from which they depend. Austin-Lane *et al.* do not make up for the deficiencies of Handsaker *et al.* with respect to claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, claims 4 and 13 are also patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 12.

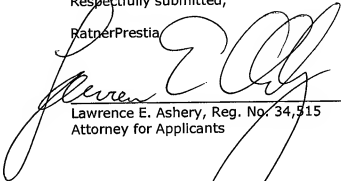
Appln. No.: 10/762,879
Amendment Dated March 16, 2009
Reply to Office Action of January 22, 2009

LMK-100US

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 16, 2009

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA on March 16, 2009.



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